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DCR AND FWHA SELECT 13 COMMUNITIES FOR REGIONAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE SURVEY

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association (FWHA) today announced the selection of 13 communities to participate in the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. The program is part of DCR's Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative, which involves several initiatives that provide technical assistance and training in support of the preservation of historically-significant landscapes throughout Massachusetts.

Started in 2001, the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program gives direct technical assistance to help communities identify, document and protect the heritage landscapes that are vital to the history, character and quality of life in the region. Participating communities this year are: Acton, Arlington, Bolton, Boxborough, Concord, Fitchburg, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Maynard, Shirley, Stow and Winchendon.

"The Heritage Landscape Inventory program is a great opportunity for communities to identify not only their heritage landscapes but also the tools that can be used to help protect them," said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. "Through this initiative, DCR and FWHA will be able to provide these communities and our regional partners with critical information to assist in their smart growth planning efforts and to help protect the distinct places and spaces that define the character of the communities in this region."

DCR has worked with 45 communities to date through the Heritage Landscape Inventory program, partnering in the past with the Essex National Heritage Commission and the Taunton River Wild & Scenic Study Committee. DCR's partnership with FWHA will help bring the program to a region with landscapes that have historically influenced its residents.

The President of FHWA, Mary Whitney, noted, "The landscapes in this region are well known for having provided inspiration to residents and visitors for centuries. This program is a great opportunity for participating communities to obtain technical assistance to determine how they can best approach the protection of these heritage landscapes that are vital to our identity as a region, so that they may continue to inspire generations to come."

For more information on the Heritage Landscape Inventory Information, please visit DCR's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/Inventoryprog.htm>. For more information on the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, please visit their website at <http://www.freedomsway.org>. For more information about the Freedom's Way Reconnaissance Survey, please contact Jessica Rowcroft at DCR (617-626-1380).

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